

ABSTRACT

A network system having a network switch for processing characteristic data associated with a communications call to determine if Intelligent Network (IN) service data is required to establish the call, and a network service data gateway for receiving the characteristic data from the network switch when the service data is required. The gateway is adapted to process at least part of the characteristic data to determine a network location to access in order to obtain the service data, and a communication protocol for connecting to the network location. The gateway is also adapted to receive the service data and pass the service data to the switch to establish the call. The system has a Home IN and Visitor IN architecture.